

in Cornwall and Northern America as it is to the poor whites of the Southern States. "Tropical diseases" exist wherever the required conditions are present; if these conditions are altered, the diseases disappear from "unhealthy" tropical countries just as they have disappeared from our own "healthy" temperate climate.

Every Canadian student of medicine should know enough of tropical diseases to deal intelligently with them, should he be called upon to do so either at home or abroad. That is a sufficient reason, but there is a second and a weightier one, for providing instruction in tropical diseases at every medical school. An acquaintance with tropical medicine is essential to a proper understanding of disease, its recognition, prevention and cure.

Twenty-five years ago, comparatively little was known of tropical diseases. Since then, much work has been done. Schools of tropical medicine exist in many of the world's universities. Investigators have been sent to the tropics from every active nation. The records of their work and observations from medical men, hospitals and research laboratories in the tropics form an enormous literature, printed in an extraordinary number of languages; there is no division of medicine which supports so many special periodicals, reviews and quarterlies. The field is a rich one. Researches made in it have been exceedingly fruitful. The discoveries made have been valuable in combatting tropical diseases, and they have thrown light upon unknown things in diseases of temperate climates and, more important, they have widened our understanding of health and disease.

In the tropics a physician can never lose sight of man's relative position in nature. One who studies tropical diseases is not permitted to forget that man is an animal who, in conflict with other living beings, visible and invisible, is continuously striving to maintain himself. He is not permitted to forget that nothing in nature is fixed; that classifications are only convenient aids to memory—for living things will not remain within the limits of a description which once was accurately theirs; that man's immunity against pathogenic organisms is maintained by a constant struggle with those organisms; that these organisms constantly change their character so that the immunity, potent against one strain of an organism, may not protect against another strain although it comes from an identical parent stock.

In the tropics, one is not permitted to forget that since man is an animal, he often suffers from the same diseases as do other animals about him. In Canada, one sometimes forgets that dogs